GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3980
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2001
EXTINCTION OF RARE HERBS
JASKAUR MEENA

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of rare herbs are on the verge of extinction;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to start any scheme for the conservation and development of rare herbs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a)&(b) The Botanical Survey of India (BSI) has prepared a Red Data Book listing the threatened and endangered plant species of India. It has listed 27 species of herbs belonging to 20 genera which fall under rare, endangered and threatened category.

(c),(d)&(e) The Government is implementing various Schemes for the conservation and development of threatened/endangered plant species. A 100% Centrally sponsored Scheme for Conservation and Development of Non-Timber Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants is being implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Forests.The network of protected areas comprising 89 National Parks and 497 Wildlife Sanctuaries is also helping in the in-situ conservation of wild flora including threatened/endangered herbal plants. The Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy is funding Central Schemes for `Development and Cultivation of Medicinal Plants` and `Development of Agro-techniques and Cultivation of Medicinal Plants`.